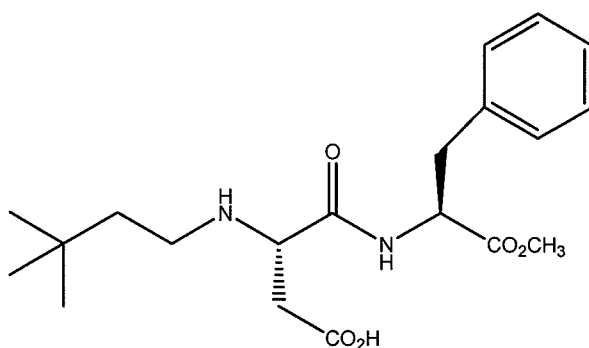


AMENDMENT TO SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph in the Background section of the Specification on page 1 with the following paragraph:

“Neotame (i.e., N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester) having the following structure



is a highly intense non-nutritive sweetening agent useful to impart sweetness to a wide variety of food products, as well as other products which benefit from sweetening, including but not limited to food products, oral care products, pharmaceutical products, and nutritional products such as nutraceuticals. See, e.g., U.S. Patent 5,480,668. Depending upon the food application for which it is used, this sweetener is about 7,000 to about 13,000 times as sweet as sucrose on a weight basis; in most food applications, this sweetness factor is about 8,000 times relative to sucrose. Thus, very small quantities of the sweetening agent may be used to sweeten foods without adding calories, or to modify flavors and tastes when used at levels below sweetening threshold.”